

March 9, 2017

The March 9, 2017 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chair Ruth Pante, held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1976, and was followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Present: Ruth Pante, Dawn Smith, Jim McMekin, Paul Tarlowe and Township Committeeman

Michael Misertino

Excused: Glenn Todd, Robert Jewell

Absent: Mitch Courtright

#### Reorganization

Ms. Smith nominated Mr. Jewell for the position of Chair, seconded by Mr. McMekin; all in favor. However, Mr. Jewell was absent, and the nomination is conditioned on Mr. Jewell's acceptance.

Mr. McMekin nominated Ms. Smith for the Chair position, but there was no second to the motion. Ms. Smith is willing to accept the position, to be voted on at the April meeting.

#### Year-End Report

Ms. Pante shared the Environmental Commission and Green Team year-end reports; several corrections and additions were made.

On March 25 ANJEC will host a training program for new Environmental Commissioners. Mr. Tarlowe will check availability; Mr. Courtright will be called to learn his interest and availability.

#### Cafferata Park

Ms. Smith reported the bluebird houses have been repaired by one of three Webelos (Cub Scout) dens and re-installed in the park, totaling nine nesting boxes at the park. Last year saw use of the houses by tree swallows, sparrows, house wrens and bluebirds. The walking trail needs gravel where it has washed out. Mr. Tarlowe commented that he had the pleasure of knowing Hector Cafferata, someone he described as a "real character" who was full of stories.

#### Commemorative Sign for Cafferata Park

Ms. Smith reported an estimate has been submitted by Frank Blanche, the layout is done, and Tim Terry is pleased; this will now be reviewed by the Stark family. It will be a small plain sign, no gold trim.

#### ERI

Ms. Smith reported the grant application was submitted to the Township Committee and was approved and submitted for grant application review on February 28. Using numbers from last year's submission, a grant of \$20,000 has been applied for. An estimate of \$4,000 should cover the tax map updates, another \$2,000 for students getting involved and supporting this activity. There is \$1,000 for engineering. Part of the narrative will note a shift in land; the 13

percent should change to 30 percent; updates for certain other maps are in order. It was MOVED by Ms. Smith to add \$1,000 to the requested budget to cover the expenses of the Township Engineer, seconded by Mr. McMekin; all in favor.

#### Photo Contest

Ms. Smith reported the photo contest closed March 1; she will put together a format for judging guidelines. All judges can use criteria for the contest. April 1 is the completion date.

#### Environmental Issues

EDAC has prepared a survey to determine anticipated use of parks, recreation programs, etc. It will be important to remain non biased. Mansfield will host the EDAC meeting, updates are to be reviewed.

#### Mt. Bethel Church

A Notice of Violation has been issued by the Warren County Health Department for improper fill dumped at the rear of the church. Lab results will show the fill standard, Mr. Misertino asked who could test. The fill must go to a certified solid waste facility. Mr. Misertino is hoping the hauler will take responsibility. Mansfield Township never authorized the use of the fill. The Township Clerk believes it will go to a New Jersey facility, and documents must be provided to the County.

#### Environmental Issues

Mr. Tarlowe responded to a question by Mr. Herrighty about plans for the pheasant farm. The facility was probably bought long before Green Acres funding was available. The new Director said there will be no sale of the property. Larry Herrighty indicated this is one of many programs that does not pay for itself, but there are no plans to change anything: new building and new incubators are in place. Mr. McMekin asked about the Musconetcong Watershed Association current activities, and Mr. Tarlowe said this is a progressive group, dams are being removed.

Mr. McMekin plans to join a climate march in Washington, DC on March 23 protesting the removal of regulations.

Ms. Smith confirmed the 7:00 p.m. March 15 presentation by Taran Sayal, the AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador. Invitations have been sent to Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts for this event.

Ms. Fascenelli said an open house is planned at the Pequest Watershed Association.

It was MOVED by Mr. McMekin to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Pante

**Next meeting date:**  
**April 13, 2017**